

Claims

1. A method of drying a honeycomb formed body comprising an outer wall, partition walls disposed inside the outer wall, and a plurality of cells surrounded by the partition walls and extending in an axial direction of the honeycomb formed body,
characterized in that the method comprises a drying step starting in a state of covering at least a part of the outer wall with a guide covering the outer wall so as not to come into contact with the outer wall.
- 10 2. The method of drying a honeycomb formed body according to claim 1, wherein the drying step starts with a distance between the outer wall and the guide covering the outer wall of 0.1 to 1.0 mm.
- 15 3. The method of drying a honeycomb formed body according to claim 1, wherein in the case where the outer wall and the guide come into contact with each other during the drying step that starts with a distance between the outer wall and the guide covering the outer wall of 0.1 mm or less, the pressure applied to the outer wall from the guide is less than 0.2 MPa.
- 20 4. A method of drying a honeycomb formed body comprising an outer wall, partition walls disposed inside the outer wall, and cells surrounded by the partition walls and extending in an axial direction of the honeycomb formed body,
characterized in that the method comprises a drying step drying in a state of covering at least a part of the outer wall with a guide covering the outer wall so as to come into contact with the outer wall,

pressure from the guide to the outer wall being less than 0.2 MPa at a part where the guide comes into contact with the outer wall in the drying step.

5. The method of drying a honeycomb formed body according to any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the guide has an opening.

6. The method of drying a honeycomb formed body according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the extent that the guide covers the outer wall is in the range of 20 to 100% relative to the surface area of the entire outer wall.

10 7. The method of drying a honeycomb formed body according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the drying includes a microwave drying step and a hot air drying step, and the hot air drying step is conducted after the microwave drying step.

15 8. The method of drying a honeycomb formed body according to claim 7, wherein at least in the hot air drying step, drying is started in a state where at least a part of the outer wall is covered with the guide.

20 9. The method of drying a honeycomb formed body according to claim 7 or 8, wherein at least in the microwave drying step, drying is started in a state where at least a part of the outer wall is covered with the guide.

25 10. The method of drying a honeycomb formed body according to any one of claims 7 to 9, wherein in the microwave drying step, microwave output per unit mass of the honeycomb formed body is in the range of 0.5 to 3 kW/kg.

11. The method of drying a honeycomb formed body according to any one of claims 7 to 10, wherein dewatering ratio in the

microwave drying step is 30 to 80% by mass, relative to the total dewatering amount in the complete drying step.

12. The method of drying a honeycomb formed body according to any of claims 1 to 11, wherein the honeycomb formed body
5 contains ceramics as a main component.

13. The method of drying a honeycomb formed body according to claim 12, wherein the main component contains silicon carbide.